

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 21, 2005

AMENDED IN SENATE JANUARY 25, 2005

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 4

Introduced by Senator Torlakson

(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members Chan and Koretz)

**(Coauthors: Senators Aanestad, Bowen, Escutia, Kuehl, Ortiz,
and Scott)**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Chavez, Cohn, Matthews, Nava, ~~and Spitzer~~ *Spitzer, Aghazarian, Arambula, Baca, Benoit, Berg, Bermudez, Blakeslee, Calderon, Canciamilla, Chu, Cogdill, Coto, Daucher, De La Torre, Dymally, Emmerson, Evans, Frommer, Garcia, Goldberg, Hancock, Harman, Jerome Horton, Shirley Horton, Houston, Jones, Karnette, Keene, Klehs, Laird, Leno, Leslie, Levine, Lieber, Liu, Maze, McCarthy, Mullin, Nakanishi, Negrete McLeod, Nunez, Parra, Plescia, Richman, Ridley-Thomas, Sharon Runner, Ruskin, Saldana, Salinas, Strickland, Torrico, Tran, Umberg, Vargas, Villines, Wolk, Wyland, and Yee*)

January 3, 2005

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4—Relative to public health awareness.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 4, as amended, Torlakson. Public health awareness.

This measure would encourage various government, community, school, and workplace activities in support of public health awareness and prevention of obesity and diabetes.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, California is experiencing an epidemic of obesity
2 and diabetes, costing the state financially and causing suffering,
3 illness, and death for many Californians; and

4 WHEREAS, The new year provides an opportunity for
5 individuals and organizations to assess the challenges ahead and
6 make commitments for improvement in their personal and
7 professional lives; and

8 WHEREAS, State leaders in all branches of government have
9 recognized the problems of the epidemic, and through a
10 bipartisan, inclusive commitment can lead the state toward
11 increased physical activity and improved nutrition and wellness;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Cities, towns, counties, and special districts have
14 opportunities to affect the epidemic positively through the built
15 environment through planning and programs that may include the
16 provision of safe and accessible walking and bicycling facilities
17 and infrastructure; and

18 WHEREAS, Children spend a significant amount of time in
19 school settings, and schools have opportunities to affect the
20 epidemic positively by offering nutritious food and snacks,
21 quality physical education and health studies, after-school
22 programs, and school-based recreational activities; and

23 WHEREAS, Workplaces can improve productivity, promote
24 health, and reduce liability costs by making available healthy
25 food service and vending choices, increasing access to safe
26 stairways, encouraging bicycling and walking for commuters,
27 and making other changes related to employee health; and

28 WHEREAS, The state's unique climate and geography
29 provides opportunities for all Californians to engage in
30 recreational and physical activities in neighborhoods and
31 communities, and local, state, and national parks and recreation
32 facilities; and

33 WHEREAS, The state has widespread access to fresh and
34 healthy food because of its great agricultural production, fine
35 restaurants, creative chefs, and health food advocates; and

36 WHEREAS, Being overweight or obese is associated with an
37 increased risk of developing serious disease, including diabetes,
38 heart disease, and cancers of the breast, colon, endometrium,
39 gallbladder, esophagus, pancreas, and kidney; and

1 WHEREAS, Health costs of the epidemic are dramatic, costing
2 the state at least \$21.7 billion annually. Efforts to remedy the
3 problem will pay for themselves by reducing these costs; and

4 WHEREAS, California is a leader in cultural trends throughout
5 the nation and the world, and addressing the epidemic can
6 provide a valuable model for other states and countries; and

7 WHEREAS, By establishing goals for reversing the epidemic,
8 the state can account for progress by measuring the resources
9 devoted to the problem along with the results of improved health
10 and wellness; now, therefore, be it

11 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
12 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature encourages leadership in
13 all branches and levels of government, local action by
14 communities, initiatives by schools and workplaces, increased
15 recreation and physical activity that is accessible for all
16 Californians, expanded healthy food options in restaurants,
17 markets, and homes, and increased emphasis on health education
18 and prevention of obesity and diabetes; and be it further

19 *Resolved*, That the Legislature recognizes that the state can be
20 a role model for increased physical activity and improved
21 nutrition and wellness throughout the nation and the world; and
22 be it further

23 *Resolved*, That the results of the efforts to reverse the obesity
24 and diabetes epidemic be measured in the years to come; and be
25 it further

26 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
27 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.